ger (North) of NCCF allegedly manipulated shortage of 22000 kg. in 1978-79 in Tea Stocks in Shahdara godown through Godown Incharge, which were sold in trade giving huge loss of about Rs. 4 lacs to NCCF and complaints in this regard were overlooked deliberately to favour the guilty officer;

(b) whether the lady staff was transferred by said officer on this matter being brought to notice and all concerned records were confined by said officer to escape action; and

(c) if so, what action is proposed to be taken against the guilty officer?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI D. L. BAITHA): (a) No, Sir. During the three years period from 1976-77 to 1978-79, the NCCF handled tea business in Delhi of total quantity of 20 lakh Kgs, against which the shortage assessed was only 8104 Kgs, which works out to 0.44 per cent of the sales

(b) The lady staff was transferred in the normal course.

(c) Does not arise.

Sale of Export Rice to Simex International, Bombay by NFFC

962. SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether 1900 MTs rice from the export surplus was sold to M/s. Simex International, Bombay by Regional Manager (West) of NCCF in 1981-82 on cre

(b) whether the said party paid only a part of the bill amount and refused the balance after taking delivery of rice and the said disposal was planned by Regional Manager (West) in advance to favour the private party and for his personal gains;

(c) whether the people managing the said firm are also in the management of Taj Consumer Cooperative Society to whom the said Reigonal Manager sold bulk quantity of dry fruits in 1983-84; and

(d) if so, the suitable punitive action taken against the erring officer?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI D. L. BAITHA): (a) The NCCF have reported that about 1727 MTs of rice valued at Rs. 21.91 lacs was sold to M/s. Simex International, Bombay. For this purpose, a mutual open and current account was maintained by the NCCF in which the amount paid as advance was credited to the account of the NCCF while the amount payable under the bills for sale were debited to the account of the firm.

(b) The firm only made part payments of the bills during 1982-83 and 1983-84 and an amount of Rs. 4.56 lakhs is still outstanding for which the NCCF has filed a suit for recovery in the High Court of Bombay in Nov., 1985. There seems to be no record to indicate that the said proposal was planned by the Regional Manager (West) to favour the firm for his personal gains.

(c) The NCCF has not enquired into the matter from this angle.

(d) The matter being *sub-judice*, no action has been initiated by the NCCF against its officials.

Availability of T.V. sets to middle and lower middle classes

963. SHRI P. N. SUKUL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of area of the country covered by T.V. transmitters including relay stations;

(b) whether Government propose to take any step to make T.V. (viewing) sets available to middle classes and lower middle classes at prices which they can afford, in view of the extensive areas of the country which are under the range of these transmitters;

(c) if so, details thereof;

(d) whether arrangements are being made for community viewing of T.V. programmes in rural areas; and

(e) if so, details thereof?